

**2023
Intended Use Plan
Drinking Water
State Revolving Fund
Lead Service Line Replacement**

**Prepared by the
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority**

July 14, 2023



**2023 Intended Use Plan - Draft
 Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
 Lead Service Line Replacement**

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Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Lead Service Line Replacement 2023 Intended Use Plan - Draft

Introduction

Section 1452(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 requires each state to annually prepare an Intended Use Plan (IUP) identifying the use of funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) allotment to support the goal of protecting public health. This IUP explains how the 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law DWSRF-Lead Service Line Replacement capitalization grant will be used and how the fund will operate in accordance with Section 1452(b) of the SDWA. This IUP outlines Georgia's proposed uses of the FY2023 DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) allotment of \$28,650,000.

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1986 as the successor agency to the Georgia Development Authority, Environmental Facilities Program. GEFA assists local governments in financing the construction, extension, rehabilitation and replacement, and securitization of public works facilities. The GEFA board of directors consists of three ex-officio members and eight members appointed by the governor. Under an interagency agreement, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) provides professional services to the DWSRF. The services include, but are not limited to:

- Project reviews and approvals;
- Planning and project development;
- Information tracking and updating files;
- Information gathering and resubmittal of the National Drinking Water Needs Survey;
- Issuing and approving Notices of No Significant Impacts (NONSI) and Categorical Exclusions (CE);
- Assistance with the National Information Management System (NIMS);
- The Public Benefit Reporting (PBR) database;
- Vendor selection and contract administration of the LSL Inventory database; and
- Administration of EPD's set-aside activities and the Project Solicitation Process

DWSRF Project Solicitation Process

Developing the DWSRF comprehensive list involves an online Request for Interest (RFI) pre-application process where all communities request funding and provide project-related information.

- The project solicitation process began on July 3, 2023, and will remain open through September 29, 2023.
- GEFA emailed the solicitation notice to its stakeholder list and coordinated with relevant trade and local government associations to further disseminate the project solicitation.
- An online RFI solicitation form regarding eligibility for lead service line inventory and replacement projects was announced and made available on GEFA's website and community partners.
- GEFA made available project solicitation packets containing detailed information about financing terms, available funding, and the ranking system for project prioritization.
- GEFA made available project solicitation packets containing detailed information about financing terms, available funding, and the ranking system for project prioritization.
- GEFA will use the RFI information to score and rank all projects submitted during the solicitation period and projects rolled over from the FY2022 solicitation period that did not receive any LSLR funding.

DWSRF Comprehensive List

The DWSRF comprehensive list of new projects will be updated within this section (Attachment 1) once the RFI period ends, and all project information is received. The list will detail drinking water projects submitted during the RFI pre-application solicitation period, and projects from the FY2022 solicitation period that did not receive any LSLR funding. The comprehensive list will be comprised of:

- Community Name
- Affordability Score
- 2020 Population Information
- Project Description & Total Project Cost
- Principal Forgiveness Eligibility
- Estimated Start & Completion Dates
- Estimated Interest Rate & Term Requirements

The GEFA board of directors reserves the right to fund lower priority projects over higher priority projects if, in the opinion of GEFA, a higher priority project has not taken the necessary steps to prepare for funding and initiation of construction (e.g., GEFA has not received a complete and approvable financial application, the project is not ready to proceed, or the community withdraws its project from consideration). Additionally, if a qualified project becomes viable within the funding year, Georgia may amend its comprehensive list. To accommodate those communities that decide to participate in the DWSRF after the capitalization grant has been awarded, GEFA will hold quarterly meetings to include any new projects on the comprehensive list. This same process of public review and comment will be followed for any substantive change in the priority of the DWSRF.

DWSRF Fundable List and Estimated Disbursement Schedule

The DWSRF fundable project list with an estimated disbursement schedule (is located in Attachment 2). The fundable list contains projects GEFA has identified as either completed, existing, or projects that are ready to commence in order to be in compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR).

Projects on the fundable list are projected to draw from the lead service line replacement 2022 grant funds. GEFA created this disbursement schedule based on the eight quarters identified in the 2022 DWSRF payment schedule located in Attachment 3, which indicates the timeframe for requesting the DWSRF capitalization grant allotment from EPA's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) System. Some of the projects listed on the disbursement schedule are one phase of a larger project and some of the projects may have a construction schedule longer than the eight quarters identified in the DWSRF payment schedule.

The DWSRF assistance includes grant financing and/or any required principal forgiveness requirements as outlined in the applicable appropriations language. Assistance will be provided to municipalities and water/sewer authorities created by the Georgia legislature for LSLR, inventory management, planning, or any LSLR related improvements to publicly-owned drinking water systems. All borrowers must designate a repayment source(s) for each loan agreement signed with GEFA. All construction projects will meet the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to Davis-Bacon requirements in section 513 and American Iron and Steel (AIS) requirements in section 608.

Terms and Conditions of Financing

Standard DWSRF Financing Terms

GEFA's benchmark interest rate is the true interest cost (to the nearest hundredth of one percent) received by the state on its competitively-bid, general obligation bond issue. GEFA currently offers DWSRF loans to local governments and authorities at an interest rate of 50 basis points (0.50 percent) below the benchmark rate.

DWSRF loans are available with terms as short as five years and not exceeding 40 years for communities designated by states as "disadvantaged" under state criteria or the useful life of the project. Interest rates are reduced from the 40-year DWSRF rate for shorter term loans.

GEFA charges a one-time origination fee. GEFA calculates the fee based on the total DWSRF financing provided for the project. The origination fee is charged on each commitment when the contract is executed and paid within the second month following contract execution. GEFA deposits origination fees into a separate non-project account. The fees are used for programs that meet the water quality goals of the drinking water state revolving fund. Program income, generated from direct capitalization grant funds, and non-program income, generated from repayment funds, will be collected and accounted for separately.

DWSRF Lead Service Line Financing Terms

The following types of lead service line projects are eligible:

- Projects by eligible entities related to non-construction project activities that seek to identify, inventory, or conduct lead service line investigation, such as employee interviews, acquisition of tax records or engineering site plans, predictive and statistical modeling, field investigations and potholing, completed or ongoing inventory projects.
- Projects that aid public water systems with a roadmap for prioritization and replacement of the entire lead or galvanized service line (both system-owned and customer-owned. To include the replacement of all curbstops, goosenecks, pigtails, and other related appurtenances or fixtures.
- Site restoration projects, including landscaping, sidewalks, driveways, pavement cuts, sod replacement, or debris removal if the removal is necessary to replace the lead service line.
- Permit fees, such as utility excavation, traffic control, sidewalk excavation, if the fees are normal, required, and specific to the lead service line replacement.
- Purchase of EPA approved equipment specifically purchased to solely support the identification, preparation, and verification of the lead service line inventory, such as lead detection devices and vacuum extraction trailers. **(All devices and equipment must be pre-approved by EPA.)**
- Purchase of Non-routine sampling kits or temporary filter devices or point-of-use (POU) devices certified to reduce lead during or for a short-time period after the lead service line replacement.
- Community engagement and public outreach initiatives, such as billing inserts, postcards, lead notification letters, doorhangers, flyers, town hall meetings, or public forums that provide education to the community on the Lead and Copper Rule Revision regulations.

Principal Forgiveness

The terms and conditions of the grant award allow subsidy in the form of principal forgiveness to borrowers of the DWSRF loan program. Exactly 49 percent of the supplemental capitalization grant must be provided as additional subsidization. All applicants are evaluated based on their individual affordability criteria.

GEFA will use an affordability tool for evaluating and scoring communities to determine principal forgiveness eligibility for the lead service line replacement grant award. A borrower will be categorized into one of four percentiles - 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent, or 100 percent. Attachment 7 further explains the criterion for each of these percentiles. A score of one through four is given for each criterion, based on the percentile. A maximum of 40 points is possible. If a community has multiple projects on the DWSRF comprehensive list, only one project can receive principal forgiveness. The affordability score for each applicant can be found in Attachment 1 and the ten criteria are listed in Attachment 7. If there is PF remaining after GEFA has reached the bottom of the list, GEFA could amend the current language in the IUP and use a lower affordability score.

ALL COMMUNITIES RECEIVING GRANT DOLLARS THROUGH THE SET-ASIDE FUNDS ARE LISTED IN ATTACHMENT 5.

Four Percent Administration

Georgia intends to use 4 percent of the capitalization grant for administrative purposes and technical assistance to complete lead service line inventory and replacement projects. Based on the FY2023 DWSRF LSLR allotment of \$28,650,000, \$1,146,000 is set aside for the maintenance of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's (GA EPD) lead service line inventory database that will allow the electronic submission of all lead service line inventories throughout the State, offer contracted management and administrative support to small and disadvantaged communities with less than 300 in population through the services of the Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA) for the DWSRF LSLR program, and enable the award of grants to small and disadvantaged communities to conduct LSL inventories. A detailed account of the costs associated with the 4 percent account is found on Attachment 5.

Sources and Use of Funds

Georgia is anticipating funding FY 2023 lead service line inventory and replacement projects using the EPA Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Lead Service Line Replacement Capitalization Grant. Per the BIL, no state match is required for this funding. The estimated sources and uses of funds in the FY 2022 DWSRF LSLR program are as follows:

Sources:

2023 EPA DWSRF BIL Lead Service Line Replacement Cap Grant: \$28,650,000

State Match: \$0

Total: \$28,650,000

Set-Asides:

Administrative/Grants:	\$ 573,000 - 2%
Technical Assistance/Grants:	\$1,146,000 – 4%
Local Assistance Grants:	\$2,865,500 – 15% (10% of Capacity Development portion of 15% Set-Aside)
Total:	\$4,584,000

Project Fund:

Project Assistance:	\$19,768,500
*State Program Management:	\$ 2,865,000 – 10%
*Local Assistance Grants:	\$ 1,432,500 – 15% (5% of Cap Grant)
Total:	\$24,066,000

***Georgia has requested a site project code transfer for the 10% State Program Management and the 10% Capacity Development portion of the 15% Local Assistance Set-Asides to provide principal forgiveness assistance to disadvantaged communities in conducting their lead service line inventories.**

Criteria and Method for Distribution of Funds

Attachment 9 explains Georgia's criteria and method used to score and distribute funds to DWSRF projects. Only those cities and counties that have been designated as a “Qualified Local Government” and are in compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 36-70-20 and appear on the comprehensive list may receive a DWSRF loan commitment. Communities within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) that are in compliance or making a good faith effort toward compliance with the MNGWPD plans are eligible for DWSRF funding. Lastly, only those communities that are in compliance with plumbing code standards as codified in O.C.G.A. Section 12-5-4 will be eligible for financing through GEFA. Eligible project costs include planning, design, engineering, and construction. Ineligible costs include maintenance and operation expenditures, projects needed primarily for fire protection, or projects to facilitate future growth. No loan will be executed until environmental approval has been issued and financial requirements have been met. The GEFA board meets quarterly and will enter into binding commitments with borrowers after board approval.

SRF Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Implementation

BIL was signed into law on November 15, 2021. The law authorizes \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure spending with \$550 billion of that figure going toward “new” investments and programs. Below are the new GEFA programs implemented by BIL:

- DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement
- CWSRF Supplemental
- DWSRF Supplemental
- CWSRF Emerging Contaminants
- DWSRF Emerging Contaminants

Build America, Buy America Act (BABA)

Alongside BIL, Congress passed BABA, which establishes strong and permanent domestic sourcing requirements across all federal financial assistance programs. BABA, which is a component of the Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA), requires federal agencies to ensure that “none of the funds made available for a Federal financial assistance program for infrastructure, including each deficient program, may be obligated for a project unless all of the iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in the project are produced in the United States.”

DWSRF Goals and Objectives

Pursuant to the SDWA, the State must identify the goals and objectives of the state loan fund (i.e., the BIL DWSRF-Lead Service Line Replacement). Georgia has the following goals for its BIL DWSRF-LSLR program:

Overall DWSRF LSLR Program Goal

Provide funding for drinking water infrastructure while advancing the GEFA’s mission to conserve and protect Georgia’s energy, land, and water resources for ALL Georgians and to advance the public health goals of SDWA while targeting the neediest systems.

Long - Term Goals

1. Consolidate multiple database management systems that will integrate Drinking Water LSL project data with program management data to meet federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) LSLR compliance regulations.
2. Continue efforts to inform PWS’s on the availability of funds, benefits of the DWSRF LSLR program, and funding process improvements.
3. Work closely with PWS’s to rapidly complete lead service line (LSL) inventories. Under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, all water systems must have initial lead service line inventories by October 16, 2024. Technical assistance set-aside funds will be used to help water systems develop inventories. Preparing the inventory will allow systems to assess the magnitude of their LSLs, better identify sampling locations, and begin planning for LSL removal actions.

Short - Term Goals

1. Expand the outreach activities to ensure that systems are aware of and understand DWSRF LSLR assistance options and the application process by presenting at statewide workshops and conferences to publicize the DWSRF LSLR program.
2. Prioritize disadvantaged communities and provide fiduciary assistance and resources that enable these communities to be in compliance with state and federal LSL compliance mandates.
3. Develop a lead service line inventory database in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Environmental Protection Division that will be used to assist publicly owned water systems in submitting lead service line data in accordance with federal compliance mandates.

Assurances and Specific Proposals

In addition to the assurances that accompany the capitalization grant application (Standard Form 424) for the 2023 funds, GEFA further agrees to adhere to all the certifications covered within the Operating Agreement with EPA Region 4. The specific certifications are:

1. Capitalization grant agreement
2. Payment schedule
3. State matching funds (**N/A for LSLR**)
4. Commitment of 120 percent in one year
5. All funds - timely expenditures
6. Enforceable requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act
7. Cross cutting issues
8. State law and procedures
9. State accounting and auditing procedures
10. Recipient accounting and auditing procedures
11. Annual report
12. Limitations on eligibility
13. Environmental review process
14. Maintain the fund
15. Perpetuity
16. Types of assistance
17. Priority list
18. Limitations of double benefits
19. Consistency with planning requirements
20. Annual audit
21. Intended use plan
22. Annual federal oversight review and technical assistance
23. Dispute resolution
24. Reserve the right to transfer up to 33 percent of grant amount between programs
25. NIMS
26. PBR

The Georgia SDWA of 1977, as amended, and the Rules for Safe Drinking Water, as amended, require that before constructing a public water system EPD must approve of: 1) the source of water supply and 2) the means and methods of treating, purifying, storing, and distributing water to the public. Furthermore, before placing the public water system in operation, the owner must obtain a permit to operate from EPD. Through the construction approval procedures and the issuance of operating permits, EPD ensures that public water systems are built and operated with adequate technical capacity to comply with existing and future state and federal drinking water regulations and standards. EPD also requires that public water systems have a certified operator. EPD supports several operator training and technical assistance programs to ensure that water systems and their operators maintain an adequate level of technical capacity.

As in previous years, DWSRF program managers will continue to coordinate with the EPA Region 4 office on items such as quarterly and annual reports, annual reviews, National Need Surveys, collection of NIMS data no less than quarterly, training opportunities, attendance at regional and national conferences, workshops, and various administrative program efforts.

Public Participation – to be updated after public meeting.

This IUP is subject to review and comment by the public prior to incorporation into the 2023 capitalization grant application. A public notification will be placed in the *Fulton Daily Report*, and this section of the IUP will be updated upon completion of the public meeting. A summary of the public meeting will be updated and included within Attachment 8.

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**ATTACHMENT 1
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
2022 COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

*** Projects submitted within the FY2022 Solicitation Period thqa**

	Community	Affordability Score	2020 Pop.	Total Project Cost **	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Est. Interest Rate	Est. Terms	Project Description
214	City of Commerce	20	8,828	\$200,000	Alternate	6/5/2023	10/1/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Commerce is seeking funding assistance to develop a complete lead & copper service line inventory program that will comply with EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This program will include the inventory of existing service lines utilizing methodologies currently accepted by EPA/EPD to determine material type for potable water service lines, including both system- and customer-owned sides. Additionally, the program will include submitting the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to EPA/EPD by the LCRR deadline, planning for public education and outreach, and developing an economical strategy for performing and optimizing sampling and LSLR procedures, including funding strategies for disadvantaged communities.
215	City of Hinesville	20	35,466	\$500,000	Alternate	5/1/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Hinesville is seeking funding assistance to develop a complete lead & copper service line inventory program that will comply with EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This program will include the inventory of existing service lines utilizing methodologies currently accepted by EPA/EPD to determine material type for 13,000 potable water service lines, including both system- and customer-owned sides. Additionally, the program will include submitting the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to EPA/EPD by the LCRR deadline, planning for public education and outreach, and developing an economical strategy for performing and optimizing sampling and LSLR procedures, including funding strategies for disadvantaged communities.
216	City of Kingsland	20	19,075	\$300,000	Alternate	6/5/2023	10/1/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Kingsland is seeking funding assistance to develop a complete lead & copper service line inventory program that will comply with EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This program will include the inventory of existing service lines utilizing methodologies currently accepted by EPA/EPD to determine material type for potable water service lines, including both system- and customer-owned sides. Additionally, the program will include submitting the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to EPA/EPD by the LCRR deadline, planning for public education and outreach, and developing an economical strategy for performing and optimizing sampling and LSLR procedures, including funding strategies for disadvantaged communities.
217	City of Leesburg	20	3,480	\$206,803	Alternate	5/1/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Leesburg is in need of funding for its Lead Service Line Inventory project. The City has a limited staff and is unable to complete the required inventory and other planning portions of the new LCRR on its own. The City is requesting \$206,803.00 to cover the costs associated with the project including: development of the service line inventory and replacement capital improvement plan by a contracted consultant, field investigation services for identification of lead service lines by a contractor that will be incorporated into the service line inventory, an initial supply of filter pitchers for a pitcher filter program, an initial supply of tap sampling kits for a random lead sampling and monitoring program, and printing and postage costs for initial notification and public education materials as part of a community outreach and communication program. The City will begin the development of the Service Line Inventory immediately upon notification of grant approval. All work will be completed and submitted to EPD no later than October 16, 2024.
218	City of Villa Rica	20	16,970	\$50,000	Alternate	3/1/2023	9/30/2024	2.63%	20	Development of the required lead and copper service line inventory utilizing engineering consultant services to determine the specific services that need to be verified by field investigations, field verification of service materials by a selected contractor via visual meter inspection and/or pothole/excavation methods, public notifications, purchase of POU devices, representative sampling, customer surveys, and any other miscellaneous tasks required to complete and submit the inventory or update the public.
219	City of Winder	20	19,995	\$600,000	Alternate	5/15/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Winder is seeking funding for development of a service line inventory to be compliant with the EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. Funding will be used to furnish services for developing the inventory in ArcGIS software and for performing a desktop analysis, historical records review, and field investigations to verify service line materials. Funding will also be used for other inventory-related expenditures, such as point-of-use devices and public notification materials.

**ATTACHMENT 1
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
2022 COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

*** COMMUNITIES AWARDED GRANTS THROUGH THE SET-ASIDE FUNDS ARE LISTED IN THE 2022 DWSRF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT IUP (SEE ATTACHMENT 5).
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON PAGE 26 OF THIS DOCUMENT)**

	Community	Affordability Score	2020 Pop.	Total Project Cost **	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Est. Interest Rate	Est. Terms	Project Description
220	City of Stockbridge	19	29,472	\$650,000	Alternate	3/1/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Stockbridge is seeking funding for development of a service line inventory to be compliant with the EPA Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. Funding will be used to furnish services for developing the inventory in ArcGIS software and for performing a desktop analysis, historical records review, and field investigations to verify service line materials. Funding will also be used for other inventory-related expenditures, such as point-of-use devices and public notification materials.
221	City of Warner Robins	19	81,446	\$500,000	Alternate	6/5/2023	10/1/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Warner Robins is seeking funding assistance to develop a complete lead & copper service line inventory program that will comply with EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This program will include the inventory of existing service lines utilizing methodologies currently accepted by EPA/EPD to determine material type for potable water service lines, including both system- and customer-owned sides. Additionally, the program will include submitting the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to EPA/EPD by the LCRR deadline, planning for public education and outreach, and developing an economical strategy for performing and optimizing sampling and LSLR procedures, including funding strategies for disadvantaged communities.
222	Jackson County Water and Sewerage Authority	19	80,000	\$300,000	Alternate	2/1/2023	7/31/2024	2.63%	20	Take inventory of 2500+ service lines that have the potential to be of lead materials due to installation date prior to the 1986 ban on lead-based materials. This step will prepare for replacement of all service lines not determined to be lead-free.
223	Unified Government of Chattahoochee County	19	9,500	\$100,000	Alternate	9/1/2023	9/1/2028	2.63%	20	We currently do not have the manpower to go out and do field investigations to determine the status of the lead in our service lines. We are in need of an approved, compliant contractor to provide this service. We are concerned that there is a substantial lead presence on the privately owned side of service lines. We are historically disadvantaged/ underserved according to government census data and are working with congress members to separate our data from the numbers that come from Fort Benning, soon to be Fort Moore, because we are actually in further poverty as a county than our numbers show due to data from post skewing our numbers. We need help in the form of guidance, manpower and finances to tackle this issue. The only thing we have started is research. We cannot take on loan debt and need grants.
224	City of Cumming	18	7,235	\$100,000	Alternate	-	-	2.63%	20	Identify location of lead pipe and replace lead pipe in the City of Cumming, GA
225	City of Grovetown	18	16,566	\$350,000	Alternate	6/1/2023	6/1/2024	2.63%	20	Investigation for lead/copper lines within the City. Replacement of lead service lines if found.
226	City of Lumpkin	18	891	\$120,423	Alternate	5/1/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Lumpkin is in need of funding for its Lead Service Line Inventory project. The City has a limited staff and is unable to complete the required inventory and other planning portions of the new LCRR on its own. The City is requesting \$120,423.00 to cover the costs associated with the project including: development of the service line inventory and replacement capital improvement plan by a contracted consultant, field investigation services for identification of lead service lines by a contractor that will be incorporated into the service line inventory, an initial supply of filter pitchers for a pitcher filter program, an initial supply of tap sampling kits for a random lead sampling and monitoring program, and printing and postage costs for initial notification and public education materials as part of a community outreach and communication program. The City will begin the development of the Service Line Inventory immediately upon notification of grant approval. All work will be completed and submitted to EPD no later than October 16, 2024.
227	City of Menlo	18	483	\$1,000,000	Alternate	1/1/2024	12/31/2026	2.63%	20	Inventory and replacement of City of Menlo lead pipes
228	City of Patterson	18	760	\$115,000	Alternate	11/1/2023	11/1/2024	2.63%	20	Lead line inventory

**ATTACHMENT 1
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
2022 COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

*** COMMUNITIES AWARDED GRANTS THROUGH THE SET-ASIDE FUNDS ARE LISTED IN THE 2022 DWSRF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT IUP (SEE ATTACHMENT 5).
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON PAGE 26 OF THIS DOCUMENT)**

	Community	Affordability Score	2020 Pop.	Total Project Cost **	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Est. Interest Rate	Est. Terms	Project Description
229	City of Shiloh	18	402	\$50,000	Alternate	3/1/2023	9/30/2024	2.63%	20	Development of the required lead and copper service line inventory utilizing engineering consultant services to determine the specific services that need to be verified by field investigations, field verification of service materials by a selected contractor via visual meter inspection and/or pothole/excavation methods, public notifications, purchase of POU devices, representative sampling, customer surveys, and any other miscellaneous tasks required to complete and submit the inventory or update the public.
230	DeKalb County (GA) Government	18	762,820	\$855,000	Alternate	4/28/2023	10/8/2024	2.63%	20	DeKalb County's Department of Watershed Management (DWM) provides water service through over 3,000 miles of water distribution mains to over 760,000 people through over 200,000 potable service connections to the mains. DWM has contracted with engineering firm CDM Smith to provide support services to the County for Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) Compliance in preparation for the impending EPA compliance date of October 2024. These services include service line inventories, requirements related to lead service line replacements, compliance and system sampling changes, school and daycare sampling, corrosion control changes and public education. To date, DeKalb has not identified any lead service lines in the system. However, for most of the system, the material on one or both sides (County owned side or Customer owned side) of the service lines are still unknown. In support of the above, CDM Smith will perform a phased program to support the County in meeting the LCRR with the following scope: Phase 1 – Initial Inventory and Program Planning; Phase 2 – Implement Verification Strategies and Develop Program Plans; Phase 3 – Implement Lead Service Line Replacement Program (if needed).
231	Lee County Utility Authority	18	33,411	\$1,100,000	Alternate	10/2/2023	1/1/2024	2.63%	20	The removal and replacement of all lead service lines and lead appurtenances in the water system, including but not limited to goosenecks and lead service lines.
232	Pike County Water & Sewer Authority	18	19,195	\$100,000	Alternate	6/1/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	Pike County Water & Sewer Authority is seeking funding assistance to develop a complete lead & copper service line inventory program that will comply with EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This program will include the inventory of existing service lines utilizing methodologies currently accepted by EPA/EPD to determine material type for 400 potable water service lines, including both system- and customer-owned sides. Additionally, the program will include submitting the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to EPA/EPD by the LCRR deadline, planning for public education and outreach, and developing an economical strategy for performing and optimizing sampling and LSLR procedures, including funding strategies for disadvantaged communities.
233	City of Dawsonville	17	30,138	\$1,506,900	Alternate	9/1/2023	10/1/2024	2.63%	20	Lead Line inventory and replacement project
234	City of Hoschton	17	4,725	\$105,000	Alternate	8/1/2023	6/14/2024	2.63%	20	City Wide Water Service Line inventory to determine extent of lead service lines on the system.
235	City of Richmond Hill	17	17,556	\$452,000	Alternate	1/1/2024	2/29/2024	2.63%	20	The project will apply best practices to determine lead services across the water system. The practices will include desktop surveys of tax id information, postcard testing, field testing, and visual inspections of services to determine in-place infrastructure. The costs also include data aggregation and a data management platform for the inventory.
236	City of Rincon	17	11,100	\$371,000	Alternate	1/1/2024	2/29/2024	2.63%	20	The project will apply best practices to determine lead services across the water system. The practices will include desktop surveys of tax id information, postcard testing, field testing, and visual inspections of services to determine in-place infrastructure. The costs also include data aggregation and a data management platform for the inventory.

**ATTACHMENT 1
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
2022 COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

*** COMMUNITIES AWARDED GRANTS THROUGH THE SET-ASIDE FUNDS ARE LISTED IN THE 2022 DWSRF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT IUP (SEE ATTACHMENT 5).
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON PAGE 26 OF THIS DOCUMENT)**

	Community	Affordability Score	2020 Pop.	Total Project Cost **	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Est. Interest Rate	Est. Terms	Project Description
237	City of Williamson	17	681	\$50,000	Alternate	3/1/2023	9/30/2024	2.63%	20	Development of the required lead and copper service line inventory utilizing engineering consultant services to determine the specific services that need to be verified by field investigations, field verification of service materials by a selected contractor via visual meter inspection and/or pothole/excavation methods, public notifications, purchase of POU devices, representative sampling, customer surveys, and any other miscellaneous tasks required to complete and submit the inventory or update the public.
238	Fulton County	17	290,000	\$300,000	Alternate	7/3/2023	12/31/2030	2.63%	20	Lead Service Line identification and replacement program. Phase 1 - Data Analysis to screen service line material based on date of installation and external regulations and internal policies at time of installation. Estimated Cost \$300,000 Estimated - Start July 2022 Estimated Completion - December 2024 Phase 2 - Field Investigation of materials of service line construction for both public and private side services for service line material not otherwise identified. Phase 2 to include a public education component. Estimated Cost \$2,000,000 Estimated - Start July 2024 Estimated Completion - December 2026 Phase 3 - Replacement of public and private service lines required to provide lead free service lines. Estimated Cost \$10,000,000 Estimated - Start January 2026 Estimated Completion - December 2030
239	Harris County	17	34,668	\$100,000	Alternate	3/1/2023	9/30/2024	2.63%	20	Development of the required lead and copper service line inventory utilizing engineering consultant services to determine the specific services that need to be verified by field investigations, field verification of service materials by a selected contractor via visual meter inspection and/or pothole/excavation methods, public notifications, purchase of POU devices, representative sampling, customer surveys, and any other miscellaneous tasks required to complete and submit the inventory or update the public.
240	Oconee County Water Resources	16	44,496	\$1,400,000	Alternate	6/1/2023	10/1/2024	2.63%	20	Oconee County Water Resources (OCWR) is a branch of Oconee County Government and provides its customers with water and sewer. We have a population of 44,496 with 12,209 water service connections. We are requesting grant funding for our Lead and Copper Inventory Project. OCWR has a limited staff of 23 personnel (From Director, customer service, meter reading, sewer plant operators, water and sewer crews, quality, and billing) and unable to complete the required inventory, planning, and field portions of the LCRR on its own. OCWR is requesting \$1,000,000 to cover costs associated with the project including: improvement plan by contracted consultant, field investigation services for identification of lead service lines by a contractor that will be incorporated into the service line inventory, supply of filter pitchers for a filter pitcher program, supply of tap sampling kits for random lead sampling and monitoring program, printing and postage for notification and public education materials for community outreach and communication. OCWR will begin the development of the Service Line Inventory 6/1/2023 upon notification of grant funding approval. Our goal is to have all work completed and submitted to EPD by 10/1/2024.
241	City of Bremen	15	7,200	\$2,100,000	Alternate	6/3/2024	10/31/2024	2.63%	20	To inspect and remove lead and copper water lines
242	City of Chickamauga	15	2,917	\$400,000	Alternate	3/1/2023	9/30/2024	2.63%	20	Development of the required lead and copper service line inventory utilizing engineering consultant services to determine the specific services that need to be verified by field investigations, field verification of service materials by a selected contractor via visual meter inspection and/or pothole/excavation methods, public notifications, purchase of POU devices, representative sampling, customer surveys, and any other miscellaneous tasks required to complete and submit the inventory or update the public.

**ATTACHMENT 1
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
2022 COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

*** COMMUNITIES AWARDED GRANTS THROUGH THE SET-ASIDE FUNDS ARE LISTED IN THE 2022 DWSRF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT IUP (SEE ATTACHMENT 5).
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON PAGE 26 OF THIS DOCUMENT)**

	Community	Affordability Score	2020 Pop.	Total Project Cost **	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Est. Interest Rate	Est. Terms	Project Description
243	City of Fargo	15	250	\$150,000	Alternate	7/1/2023	9/30/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Fargo is seeking funding assistance in order to develop it's lead service line inventory. The City does not have the necessary financial resources to develop and submit the inventory by the October 16, 2024 deadline set by the Lead and Copper Rule Revision. The City of Fargo is planning to utilize ArcGIS Software, review historical records, conduct water meter inspections, perform representative sampling and other methods necessary to determine the status of service lines in the City's water service area.
244	City of Flowery Branch	14	10,144	\$120,000	Alternate	5/1/2023	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Flowery Branch is seeking funding assistance to develop a complete lead & copper service line inventory program that will comply with EPA's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) by the October 16, 2024 deadline. This program will include the inventory of existing service lines utilizing methodologies currently accepted by EPA/EPD to determine material type for 1950 potable water service lines, including both system- and customer-owned sides. Additionally, the program will include submitting the Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan to EPA/EPD by the LCRR deadline, planning for public education and outreach, and developing an economical strategy for performing and optimizing sampling and LSLR procedures, including funding strategies for disadvantaged communities.
245	City of Roswell	14	18,500	\$92,000	Alternate	1/30/2023	1/31/2023	2.63%	20	The City of Roswell's Water Utility needs to create a Service Line Inventory, as required under the EPA's updated Lead and Copper Rule, to identify service line material for both the public side and private side. This inventory will identify service line material and will be public facing. As lead services are identified, the City will plan for replacement of the services. The City plans to work with a consultant in the creation of the Service Line inventory and the public-facing portal.
246	Cobb County Water System	13	750,000	\$2,000,000	Alternate	11/7/2022	10/16/2024	2.63%	20	CCWS has over 190,000 water customers resulting in over 380,000 service lines needing to have material identification. More than 50% pre-date the EPD date of 1990 for end of use of lead-containing materials. The program will be for the identification of publicly- and privately-owned service line materials by outside contractors during planned capital water main replacement improvement projects and other projects by outside contractors.
247	Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer	13	267,000	\$500,000	Alternate	6/15/2022	10/16/2029	2.63%	20	Forsyth County has an overall population of 267,000 (U.S. Census Bureau, PEP 2022) with approximately 68,000 water service connections and a population served of 206,000. The County is interested in pursuing DWSRF funding opportunities for both lead service line inventory and replacement projects. The County is requesting grant or low-interest loan financing in the amount of \$500,000 for its Lead Service Line Inventory project. The County wishes to be considered for the grant opportunity and has only selected the loan opportunity as a back-up option. In addition, the County is requesting low-interest loan financing in the amount of \$3,000,000 for a Lead Service Line Replacement project. 1) Lead Service Line Inventory Project: The County has started developing a service line inventory in accordance with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions and most recent guidance. Currently, the County is upgrading its entire system with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) water meters by June 2024. Wherever possible, the County's AMI contractor is documenting service line materials during meter installation on both the public (water system-owned) and private (customer-owned) sides. Based upon a desktop analysis, the County has identified less than 10,000 water service connections installed before 1990. At this time, the AMI contractor has inspected more than 1,000 of these locations. Based on the data collected so far, the County anticipates service line materials at 6,000 locations will need to be identified by other means, such as customer self-reporting, water testing using targeted, flushed, or sequential sampling protocols, and/or predictive modeling. 2) Lead Service Line Replacement Project: The County assumes 10% of water service connections installed before 1990 (approximately 1,000 locations) will have lead or galvanized steel service lines requiring replacement.

**ATTACHMENT 1
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT
2022 COMPREHENSIVE LIST**

*** COMMUNITIES AWARDED GRANTS THROUGH THE SET-ASIDE FUNDS ARE LISTED IN THE 2022 DWSRF LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT IUP (SEE ATTACHMENT 5).
(ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS PROVIDED ON PAGE 26 OF THIS DOCUMENT)**

	Community	Affordability Score	2020 Pop.	Total Project Cost **	Potential Principal Forgiveness	Estimated Start	Estimated Completion	Est. Interest Rate	Est. Terms	Project Description	
248	City of Ball Ground	13	2,850	\$70,000	Alternate	5/24/2023	2/28/2024	2.63%	20	The City of Ball Ground has purchased a Vermeer Hydro Excavation Trailer for \$70,000 to assist our water crew in excavating and visually inspecting our "unknown" service lines as part of our compliance plan with the new Lead/Copper Rule. The excavator is slated for deliver on May 24th, 2023. This would be a request for reimbursement as the purchase order has already been issued.	
249	City of Smyrna	12	56,000	\$2,800,000	Alternate	5/1/2025	5/1/2026	2.63%	20	Service line verification and replacement	
250	Jekyll Island State Park Authority	12	2,000	\$100,000	Alternate	6/1/2023	10/1/2024	2.63%	20	The Jekyll Island State Park Authority is in need of funding for the replacement of all lead and galvanized water service lines, including goosenecks and adaptors. Jekyll Island has a permanent population of over 2,000 and upwards of 4,000 guests staying in hotels or day-tripping on any given day. A constant (multiplier) of 3.0 used in the Selig Center's Economic Study was applied to the vehicle counts at the entry gate, resulting in an estimated total of 3.6 million visitors for the year 2017. The target population for stakeholder involvement throughout this project would be the entire resident, visitor, and business pool on Jekyll Island, as they all use water and sewer resources during their stay or activities on the island. This project aims to address the critical issue of lead water lines on Jekyll Island by providing funding to replace lead and galvanized water service lines with safe and sustainable alternatives. The expected outcome will result in enhanced sustainability and resilience of water infrastructure through the use of modern and durable materials. Funding of the replacement of the Jekyll Island lead service lines will support the transition to safer and more reliable water infrastructure, ensuring that all residents and guests have access to safe and clean drinking water. The Jekyll Island State Park Authority is requesting \$700,000.00 in funding to replace all lead and galvanized service lines, goosenecks, and adaptors. The resources will be used to benefit the entire target area of Jekyll Island, Georgia, ZIP code 31527. All work will be completed and submitted to EPD no later than October 16, 2024.	
				\$115,295,377							
<p>*Communities with PRIMARY listed in the potential principal forgiveness columns will be receiving an email from GEFA concerning the procedure being used for allocating partial grants and/or principal forgiveness (PF). For the FY22 DWSRF LSLR Funding, GEFA will be allocating grants and (PF) based on the following criteria: affordability score, project readiness, and the community's financial position. Those communities with ALTERNATE listed will be contacted after the primary communities have responded and the grant and/or PF allocations have been made.</p>											
<p>** The Total Project Cost reflects either the remaining project costs after grant award allocations or project costs that will be applicable for principal forgiveness (PF) funding. Please be advised that all communities who were awarded full grant funding were removed from this list. The list of all communities awarded grants through set-asides funding are listed on the 2022 DWSRF LSLR Intended Use Plan (Attachment 5).</p>											

Attachment 2
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
2023 Lead Service Line Replacement IUP
Estimated Disbursement Schedule

PROJECT	LOAN AMOUNT	CONSTR. START DATE	TARGET COMPL. DATE	1st Qtr 7/22-9/22	2nd Qtr 10/22-12/22	3rd Qtr 1/23-3/23	4th Qtr 4/23-6/23	1st Qtr 7/23-9/23	2nd Qtr 10/23-12/23	3rd Qtr 1/24-3/24	4th Qtr 4/24-6/24	TOTAL DISBURS.
Columbus Water Works	\$350,000	8/22/2022	8/1/2024	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$43,750	\$ 350,000
City of Smyrna	\$2,800,000	11/1/2022	11/1/2023		\$560,000	\$560,000	\$560,000	\$560,000	\$560,000			\$ 2,800,000
City of Roswell	\$92,000	1/30/2023	1/31/2024			\$18,400	\$18,400	\$18,400	\$18,400	\$18,400		\$ 92,000
City of Monroe	\$150,000	1/1/2023	1/1/2024			\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000		\$ 150,000
City of Cartersville	\$993,200	1/1/2023	1/1/2024			\$198,640	\$198,640	\$198,640	\$198,640	\$198,640		\$ 993,200
City of Vienna	\$30,000	3/16/2023	7/18/2023			\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000				\$ 30,000
City of Valdosta	\$2,532,650	4/3/2023	10/1/2024			\$422,108	\$422,108	\$422,108	\$422,108	\$422,109	\$422,109	\$ 2,532,650
City of Cumming	\$100,000	10/2/2023	10/16/2024						\$33,333	\$33,333	\$33,334	\$ 100,000
City of Nicholls	\$13,421	12/1/2022	12/1/2023		\$2,684	\$2,684	\$2,684	\$2,684	\$2,685			\$ 13,421
City of Graham	\$35,260	9/4/2023	10/16/2024					\$8,815	\$8,815	\$8,815	\$8,815	\$ 35,260
City of Rome	\$200,000	1/1/2023	9/2/2024			\$33,333	\$33,333	\$33,333	\$33,333	\$33,334	\$33,334	\$ 200,000
City of Statesboro	\$2,000,000	1/2/2022	9/2/2023	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000	\$400,000				\$ 2,000,000
City of Morgan	\$6,000	3/13/2023	3/5/2024			\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200		\$ 6,000
City of Calhoun	\$370,000	7/1/2023	7/1/2024					\$123,333	\$123,333	\$123,334		\$ 370,000
City of Centerville	\$44,000	2/1/2023	2/1/2024			\$7,333	\$7,333	\$7,333	\$7,333	\$7,334	\$7,334	\$ 44,000
Heard County Water Authority	\$13,717,850	3/7/2023	3/1/2024			\$2,743,570	\$2,743,570	\$2,743,570	\$2,743,570	\$2,743,570		\$ 13,717,850
Bartow County Water	\$315,000	7/14/2022	6/1/2023	\$78,750	\$78,750	\$78,750	\$78,750					\$ 315,000
Jackson County Water Authority	\$300,000	2/1/2023	2/1/2024			\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$60,000		\$ 300,000
Cobb County Water Authority	\$2,000,000	5/5/2021	5/5/2023	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000					\$ 2,000,000
City of Whigham	\$47,500	4/1/2023	4/1/2024				\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$9,500	\$ 47,500
City of Cordele	\$60,500	1/5/2022	10/1/2024	\$7,563	\$7,562	\$7,562	\$7,562	\$7,562	\$7,563	\$7,563	\$7,563	\$ 60,500
City of Covington	\$32,180	5/1/2023	10/1/2024				\$6,436	\$6,436	\$6,436	\$6,436	\$6,436	\$ 32,180
City of Albany	\$100,000	10/10/2022	10/31/2023		\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000			\$ 100,000
Oconee County Water Resources	\$1,400,000	6/3/2022	6/2/2023				\$280,000	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$280,000	\$ 1,400,000
City of Bremen	\$2,100,000	6/1/2023	8/1/2024				\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$ 2,100,000
Clayton County Water Authority	\$16,053,500	12/15/2022	12/1/2023		\$2,675,583	\$2,675,583	\$2,675,583	\$2,675,583	\$2,675,584	\$2,675,584		\$ 16,053,500
Lee County Water Authority	\$1,000,000	10/2/2023	10/2/2024						\$333,333	\$333,333	\$333,334	\$ 1,000,000
City of Dawsonville	\$1,506,900	9/1/2023	9/1/2024					\$376,725	\$376,725	\$376,725	\$376,725	\$ 1,506,900
TOTAL	\$ 48,349,961			\$ 1,030,063	\$ 4,288,329	\$ 7,812,913	\$ 8,528,849	\$ 8,458,972	\$ 8,415,641	\$ 7,832,960	\$ 1,982,234	\$ 48,349,961

**Attachment 3 - ASAP DWSRF Payment Schedule
 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
 Lead Service Line Replacement**

Attachment 3 ASAP Payment Schedule Drinking Water State Revolving Fund			
Payment No.	Federal Fiscal Year		Amount (\$)
	Quarter	Date	
1	3 rd	7/2023 - 9/2023	\$0
2	4 th	10/2023- 12/2023	\$0
3	1 st	1/2024 - 3/2024	\$28,660,000
4	2 nd	4/2024 - 6/2024	\$0
5	3 rd	7/2024 - 9/2024	\$0
6	4 th	10/2024- 12/2024	\$0
7	1 st	1/2025 - 3/2025	\$0
8	2 nd	4/2025 – 6/2025	\$0
TOTAL			\$28,660,000

**Attachment 4 - Estimated Sources and Uses
GEFA
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
Lead Service Line Replacement**

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Sources and Uses Administered By Georgia Environmental Finance Authority State Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024			
Sources & Uses	Federal Contribution	State Contribution	Total
Funding Sources			
Setaside Category D	573,200	-	573,200
Setaside Category E, F, G	4,012,000	-	4,012,000
FFY22 BIL Capitalization Grant	24,074,800	-	24,074,800
Total Funding Sources	\$28,660,000		\$28,660,000
Funding Uses			
Project Disbursements	24,074,800	-	24,074,800
Setasides Spending	4,012,000	-	4,012,000
FFY 2022 Administration	573,200	-	573,200
Total Funding Uses	\$28,660,000		\$28,660,000

**Attachment 5 – Supplemental DWSRF 2 Percent, 4 Percent, 10 Percent,
and 15 Percent Set-Aside Work Plan**

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments of 1996 include a section authorizing states to provide funding for certain non-project activities called set-asides. States are required to describe, in their Intended Use Plans (IUP) the amount of funds that they will use for these activities. If a state does not expend all its set-asides, the state may transfer the monies to the DWSRF project account.

4 Percent Administration (2023 - \$1,146,400)

Set-Aside Activity	Activity		Comments
DWSRF Administration	<p>Georgia Rural Water Association (GRWA): assist water utilities <10,000 with lead service line inventory data review, and work directly with smaller water utilities with <300 connections to complete LSL inventory.</p> <p>See Attachment 6 – Please find attached GEFA's RFQ for the selection of a vendor to develop a software base that will allow the electronic submission of lead service line inventories.</p> <p>Technical assistance activities include administration of EPD's set-aside activities and the issuance of grants to any size PWSs to conduct inventories.</p>	<p>GEFA Technical Assistance Contract: \$500,000</p> <p>120 Water Software Vendor Contract: \$400,000</p> <p>Any System Grants: \$246,400</p>	<p>Grants will assist any size system in completing their LSL inventories. This funding will be based on GEFA's affordability criteria.</p>
	Total	\$1,146,400	

2 Percent Small System Technical Assistance (2023 - \$573,200)

Set-Aside Activity	Activity	Cost	Comments
Small System Technical Assistance	<p>Technical assistance activities include project reviews and approvals; planning; project development; information tracking; information gathering and development of the request for interest solicitation; project ranking; and administration of EPD's set-aside activities all programmatic, financial, issue grants to any size PWSs to conduct inventories.</p> <p>Technical assistance activities include administration of EPD's set-aside activities and the issuance of grants to small PWSs 10,000 or less in population to conduct LSL inventories.</p>	<p>Administration/ Support: \$307,000</p> <p>Small System Grants: \$266,200</p>	Grants will be used to assist small systems (10,000 or less in population) in conducting their LSL inventories. This funding will be based on GEFA's affordability criteria.
	Total	\$573,200	

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10 Assistance to State Programs (2023 - \$2,866,000)

Set-Aside Activity	Activity	Cost	Comments
State Program Management	Technical assistance activities include the transfer of this allotment to the project fund to be utilized in the administration and issuance of grants to any size PWSs to conduct inventories.	LSLR Grants: \$2,866,000	Grants will assist any size system in completing their LSL inventories. This funding will be based on GEFA's affordability criteria.
	Total	\$2,866,000	

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15 Percent Small System Technical Assistance (2023 - \$2,866,000) - 10% \$143,300 – 5%

Set-Aside Activity	Activity	Cost	Comments
Local Assistance	<p>Technical assistance activities for the issuance of grants to any size PWSs to conduct inventories.</p> <p>From the 10% Capacity Development portion of the 15% Set-Aside grants were issued to any size systems to conduct their LSL inventories.</p> <p>Remaining 5% of 15% Local Assistance Set-Aside included the transfer of this allotment to the project fund to be utilized in the administration and issuance of grants to any size PWSs to conduct inventories.</p>	<p>LSLR Grants: \$2,866,000</p> <p>Project Fund: \$143,300</p>	<p>Grants will assist any size system in completing their LSL inventories. This funding will be based on GEFA's affordability eligibility criteria.</p>
	Total	\$3,009,300	

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**Attachment 6— GEFA Request for Qualifications to Provide
Water Program Consulting – Service Line Infrastructure Inventory
GEFA RFQ NO. 928-WRD-23LSL**

1



Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA)

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

To Provide

Water Program Consulting – Service Lines Infrastructure Inventory

GEFA RFQ No. 928-WRD- 23LSL



Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Water Program Consulting - BIL Water Infrastructure Inventory **GEFA RFQ # 928-WRD-23LSL**

A. PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA), in coordination with and in support of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD), Georgia local governments, related stakeholders/customers, and Georgia citizens, is interested in receiving statements of qualifications from firms interested in providing consulting services to assist GEFA, its supported entities and stakeholders in the administration of specific portions of the Water Infrastructure programs of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), as further described herein. The envisioned services of the Consultant include, but may not be limited to, LSL Infrastructure Inventory program administration assistance of the following (drinking water) portions of the Water Infrastructure scope of the BIL:

- Rapid progress on **Lead Service Line Identification and Replacement**

The successful consultant will work with GEFA, Georgia EPD, and other appropriate stakeholders and resources to further determine the full and appropriate scope LSL program of the BIL Water Infrastructure initiative. Accordingly, the qualifications of the consultant are of paramount importance. Therefore, this Request for Qualifications (RFQ) is being issued by GEFA in consideration of the stakeholders' interests, and prescribes a qualifications-based procurement which is generally being conducted pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-22-1 et seq. However, one or more firms that respond to this RFQ by submitting statements of qualifications may be determined to be especially qualified and capable of delivering services and may be deemed eligible for further consideration and/or discussions with GEFA to provide these services as the Consultant.

All respondents to this RFQ are subject to instructions communicated in this document and are cautioned to completely review the entire RFQ and follow instructions carefully. GEFA retains the right to reject any or all statements of qualifications or any, if applicable, subsequent submittals and/or proposals, and to waive technicalities, irregularities, and informalities, and retains the right to cancel or conclude this procurement at any time without selecting a firm to provide the described services, without any liability to any respondents, or any other person or entity, and is under no obligation to make an award relating to this RFQ to any person or entity. The final terms of any Agreement are subject, in all cases, to strict compliance with the applicable provisions of the state of Georgia and federal laws.

B. IMPORTANT - A RESTRICTION OF COMMUNICATION IS IN EFFECT FOR THIS PROJECT.

From the time of advertisement of this solicitation until a contract is executed (final award) with successful respondent(s) and such final award(s) is/are announced, interested firms are not allowed or permitted to communicate about this solicitation or scope with any staff or any official representatives of GEFA or stakeholder agencies other than the Issuing Officer and except for submission of questions as instructed in the RFQ, or as

provided by any existing work agreement(s). Finalists and Apparent Awardee(s) are restricted from making public statements or press releases about their selection as finalists or their apparent award. For violation of this restriction, GEFA reserves the right to reject the submittal of the offending respondent.

II. Scope of Services

Note- GEFA considers the services which are envisioned and generally described herein to be necessary. The actual, final scope of services, however, may differ, may be greater or lesser, and shall be fully determined through negotiation and execution of a prospective Agreement with a successful firm. The successful consultant will work with GEFA, Georgia EPD, and other appropriate stakeholders and resources to further determine the full and appropriate scope of the specific program and funding.

The successful firm shall provide any consulting services, expertise, and related software for comprehensive program administration, coordination assistance, system solutions, system access and documentation as further described herein, as well as other tasks necessary for the State of Georgia to compliantly achieve and exceed full benefit of the related specific program(s), program goals and the funding goals with close coordination and communication with contacts designated by GEFA. GEFA may potentially amend any prospective services Agreement for additional related services, as GEFA deems necessary to the best interest of the initiatives or any customer entities. Any award resulting from this RFQ will be subject to funding requirements. Any software provided as a result of this scope must conform to the compliance requirements of GEFA, Georgia EPD, as generally prescribed by Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) to the extent appropriate for efficient and effective agency utilization, and the responsibility of such compliance will rest with the successful provider.

Overview of Program

The federal BIL law's investment in the water sector includes \$50 billion to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen the nation's drinking water and wastewater systems. A significant portion of water infrastructure dollars will flow through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs), which represent a partnership between the Federal EPA, states, tribes, territories, and local communities. Consistent with the EPA, GEFA is committed to maximizing the impact of these funds in addressing urgent water challenges facing communities in Georgia.

The BIL legislation's planned investment includes dedicated funding to replace lead service lines. The Lead Service Lines program provides funding for lead pipe replacement. This was announced as part of a broader Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan on December 16, 2021.

It is envisioned that GEFA, with services and program administration assistance from a successful Consultant will potentially coordinate with water utilities, non-profits, drinking water providers, and other potential recipients to work with local stakeholders and state program contacts. Potential recipients of the lead service line funding are also encouraged to accelerate the development and use of service-line inventories, which can help guide the design of replacement projects eligible for these funds.

Lead Service Line Inventory Management

Business Need:

The lead and copper rule revisions require water systems to submit a service line inventory (SLI) to EPD. Each water system must submit the data for every service connection. Large system like the City of Atlanta, for example, will have 261,000 service connections. For scale, a rough estimate of the number of service connections captured in this effort across all public water systems is more than 3 million service connections.

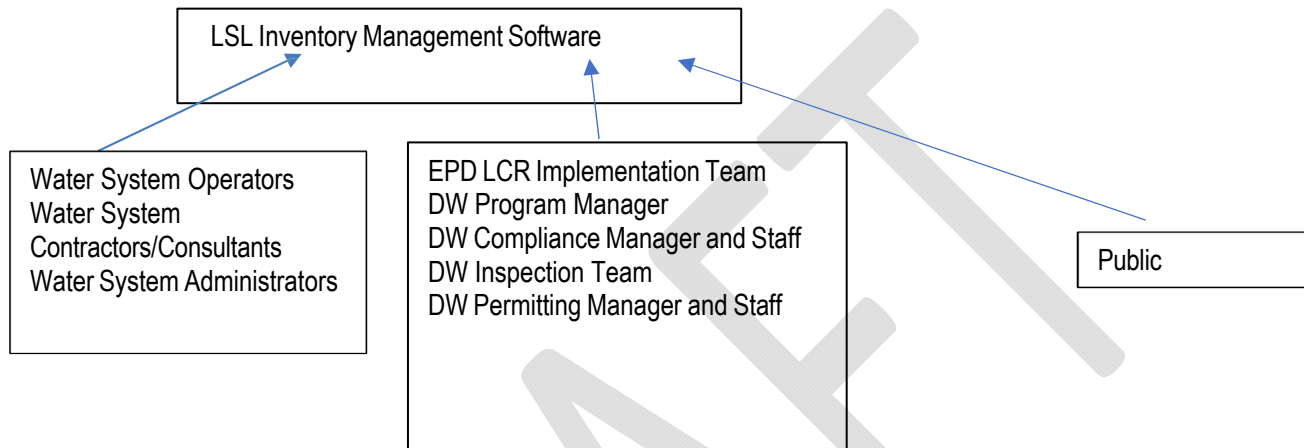
EPD will ultimately need a data management system – preferably a web-based system for submissions and handling the large amount of data, as well as tools within the system to generate different reports for compliance and tracking purposes.

Approximately 2,400 water systems will be required to submit an initial SLI to EPD. Water systems with known lead service lines and unknown service lines will submit the updates either annually or semi-annually. Water systems that do not have any lead service lines will only complete the initial submission due by October 16, 2024. Currently we estimate that approximately 900 systems will have to do the initial submission with no follow-up reporting.

The users of any such system solution

The users can be classified in to three broad categories:

1. Public water systems and their consultants
2. EPD and GEFA
3. The public (to the extent prescribed by EPD/GEFA)



Water Systems Users

- Allow water system to create profile for each user and have different permissions- viewing only, reviewing, editing, submitting etc.
- Create water system user accounts without EPD Interference Data Input/Output
- Ability to upload a list of service connections or address from their billing software
- Fill in the information for each service connections (the final number of fields to be decided by EPD)
- Ability to copy info from other service connection. (for e.g. an entire subdivision or street might have the same info)
- Ability to review the information prior to submittal
- Allow water system to continue working on their end after the submittal to change status, replacement info etc.
- Ability to upload pictures or work orders as a proof of replacement and change status in the system
- Ability to upload proof of notices to customer(s)
- Ability to tag service connections slated for replacement and timeline
-

Reports (for EPD and GEFA use and/or generation)

- Generate report showing status of each service connection or by zip codes, area or address
- Generate report showing progress of replacement schedule
- Suggest Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 sites
- Generate a list of sites that has known lead that require customer notification

EPD and GEFA Needs

- Able to set up staff permissions and role
- Ability to view the inventory from EPD side and make notes
- Ability to electronically approve the inventory and generate notification letter

- Ability to track submittal and approval of corrosion control plans
- Generate a report by each system and their submittal status
- Generate a report showing which systems have not submitted the inventory
- Ability to generate Notice of violation letters for system that have not submitted the initial inventory or follow-up inventory, systems that do not meet the replacement schedule, failure to complete school testing in the required timeframe, failure to notify the customer of presence of lead service line.
- Ability to track the replacement progress for each water systems and print reports for systems that are not meeting their replacement goals
- Ability to see the monitoring sites in map format
- Generate report for systems that require public notification
- Track the status of public notification
- Ability to view the public notifications (to the extent prescribed by EPD/GEFA)
- Ability to see picture and work order for completed projects
- Ability to export service line totals required to be reported by EPD to EPA in a format compatible with SDWIS/SDWIS State
- Tool to upload the data in the software to upload the data entered in the EPD approved spreadsheet.
- Ability to upload an approved spreadsheet in the form of a csv file and be able to submit it through the software. EPD will require the ability to manually enter information.

Public Needs

- Ability to see the status of their service connection based on the address of the property (Public access to information only as prescribed by EPD/GEFA)

Goals

Make Rapid Progress on Lead Service Line Replacement. The successful Consultant will assure full coordination and compliance and will work closely with public water systems to rapidly complete service line inventory (SLI) inventories. While inventories do not need to be complete before LSL replacement begins, the Consultant will help administer the program to devote funding and technical assistance to help public water systems develop SLI inventories and undertake replacement planning. Under the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, all public water systems must have initial inventories completed by October 2024, but EPA urges states to employ technical assistance set-aside funds to help water systems develop inventories more quickly, wherever practicable. Preparing the inventory will allow systems to assess the number of LSLs, better identify sampling locations, and begin planning for LSL removal actions, including applying for BIL funds. Any project funded under appropriation for the replacement of LSLs must replace the entire LSL, not just a portion, unless a portion has already been replaced. Successful administration shall include the affirmative conveyance of this to potential SRF applicants to ensure that they propose projects that fully replace, and pay for, both public and private LSLs.

III. Evaluation and Selection Process

A. OVERVIEW

GEFA has interest in the selection process (procurement) and GEFA will closely administer the procurement generally pursuant to O.C.G.A. 50-22-1 et seq. GEFA will solicit statements of qualifications for evaluation and ranking for determination of one or more finalist firms, and possible selection of a successful firm. GEFA has enlisted the following appropriate resources for assistance in carrying out this process:

1. Selection Facilitator

This individual shall be assigned by GEFA and will be responsible to GEFA for the interests of GEFA. This

individual shall be the issuing officer of the solicitation and shall facilitate this procurement process, including posting of solicitations and notices, receipt of submittals and questions, coordination of review, evaluation, ranking recommendation, facilitation of meetings and interviews, and other duties up to, and throughout, the committee rankings of firms, and negotiation and prospective execution of a Consulting Services Agreement.

2 Selection Committee

This Committee shall be composed of qualified persons approved by GEFA and GA EPD to review and evaluate respondent firms' statements of qualifications and other submittals, and possibly interview qualified finalist firm(s). The Selection Committee shall, through the procedures defined herein, perform the following: a) Ranking of all submitting firms for determination of finalist(s); and b) (If applicable), ranking of finalist firms for determination of most qualified firm.

B. METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

Public procurement documents, including attachments, and associated addenda (if issued) will be publicly posted on the Georgia Procurement Registry (GPR). Any communication of relevant, significant information regarding this solicitation will also be made via the GPR. Known interested firms and those firms which are deemed likely to be interested may be directly solicited immediately after public advertisement, however all firms are responsible for checking the GPR on a regular basis for updates, clarifications, and announcements.

GEFA reserves the right to communicate via email with the respondents' primary contacts listed in the Statements of Qualifications. **The Issuing Officer/Selection Facilitator named herein shall be the SOLE point of contact for participating firms for the duration of the procurement.** Other specific communications will be made as indicated in the remainder of this RFQ. In accordance with Section I-B above, GEFA reserves the right to reject the submittal of any respondent violating this provision.

C. EVALUATION OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Selection Committee will evaluate all submittals upon submittal validation by the Selection Facilitator, which shall include verification of receipt-on-time and in good order (apparent responsiveness). Responsiveness validation will also include verification of receipt of the following signed and notarized Exhibits: Exhibit I, *Statement of Qualification Certification* form; and Exhibit II, *Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act Affidavit* form. Submittals from respondents with apparent significant conflicts of interests are subject to additional pre-review prior to validation, other action, or disqualification. For validated submittals, each member/ evaluator will assign points using the criteria identified in Section VI. Under facilitation and coordination from the

Selection Facilitator, the Selection Committee members will thoroughly review and evaluate Statements of Qualifications submitted in response to this RFQ, using the criteria stated herein. For each evaluator, the points assigned to each criterion will be totaled and an individual evaluator rank will be determined for each firm. The rankings of all evaluators will be totaled to arrive at the sum of individual rankings for each submittal evaluated in order to determine the most qualified firm(s). If applicable, the number of multiple finalists may be determined through review of any large differences between firms' sums of individual rankings only upon agreement by the majority of Selection Committee members.

D. FINALIST NOTIFICATION

The names of the firms selected as finalist(s) will be posted on the Georgia Procurement Registry and will receive written notification (Finalist Notification) from the Selection Facilitator which will address the necessary elements of the remainder of the selection process. Criteria for the remainder of the selection process will be communicated

in the Finalist Notification, along with other appropriate evaluation information. The Finalist Notification may also address the following:

1. Issuance of Additional Program Information

The Finalist Notification may include any additional available program information, and finalist firms may be given relevant available information which has previously been developed (such as program descriptions and regulatory guidelines, etc.), and other available additional scope information. A specimen copy of the Consulting Services Agreement may also be provided.

2. Presentation / Interview (Only if Applicable)

In the Finalist Notification, an interview may be requested of finalist firms, if determined necessary by GEFA. Each finalist firm shall be notified in writing and informed of the place, date and time for the presentation/interview session and/or proposal due date. Detailed presentation/interview instructions and requirements of the finalists will be provided in the Finalist Notification. All members of the Selection Committee will be present and participating during the presentation/interview. **Firms shall not address any questions, prior to the Presentation/Interview, to anyone other than designated contact.**

E. EVALUATION OF FINALISTS, APPARENT AWARD, AND FINAL AWARD

Under facilitation and coordination from the Selection Facilitator, the Selection Committee members will thoroughly review and evaluate any submittals and interview sessions that were carried out in response to the Finalist Notification, using the criteria stated therein. For each evaluator, the points assigned to each criterion will be totaled and an individual evaluator rank will be determined for each firm. The rankings of all evaluators will be totaled for each submittal evaluated in order to determine the firm's sum of the individual evaluator rankings, which shall be the basis for final ranking. The Selection Facilitator shall review all supporting data to determine final ranking(s) and most qualified firm, or "Apparent Awardee".

Upon posting of Apparent Award and notification to the Apparent Awardee, the Selection Facilitator will request the Apparent Awardee's fee proposal and marked up copy of the Engineering Services Agreement. If a satisfactory agreement cannot be reached timely with the highest-ranking firm by the negotiation team, GEFA will formally terminate the negotiations in writing and, at its option may 1) request a fee proposal and marked-up copy of the Agreement from, and enter into negotiations with, the second highest-ranking firm (new Apparent Awardee) upon formal notification, and so on in turn until a mutual agreement is established and GEFA awards a contract; or 2) cancel the procurement. The final form of the contract shall be issued by GEFA.

IV. Schedule of Events

The following Schedule of Events table represents GEFA's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. All times indicated are prevailing times in Atlanta. GEFA reserves the right to adjust the schedule, with prior notice, as it deems necessary.

a. Selection Facilitator issues public advertisement of RFQ-	1/18/23	-----
b. Deadline for submission of written questions and requests for clarification-	1/25/23	2:00 PM
c. Selection Facilitator provides answers/clarifications/addenda-	1/30/23	-----

d. Deadline for submission of Statements of Qualifications (SOQs)-	2/6/23	2:00 PM
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V. DELIVERABLES for Statements of Qualifications

IMPORTANT- Statements of Qualifications must include certain signed and notarized Exhibits, which are provided herein, as follows: Exhibit I, *Statement of Qualification Certification* form; and Exhibit II, *Georgia Security and Immigration Compliance Act Affidavit* form. **The Statements of Qualifications must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in Section VI-B, must be categorized and numbered as outlined below, and must be responsive to all requested information below. References in submittals to websites or referrals to other sources of information will not cause a review of the information, and such information may not be evaluated.**

A. STABILITY AND RESOURCES

1. Provide basic company information: company name, address, name of primary proposing contact, telephone number, fax number, email address, and company website (if available). If the firm has multiple offices, the qualification statement shall include information about the parent company and branch office separately. Identify office from which project will be managed and this office's proximity to the Project site(s). Provide form of ownership, including state of residency or incorporation, and number of years in business. Is the respondent a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability Corporation, or other structure?
2. Briefly describe the history and growth of your firm(s). Provide general information about the firm's personnel resources, including disciplines and numbers of employees and locations and staffing of offices.
3. Has the firm or any affiliate been involved in any arbitration, litigation, mediation, dispute review board or other dispute resolution proceeding occurring during the last 10 years involving an amount more than \$100,000? Also describe any pending regulatory inquiries that could impact your ability to provide services if you are the selected Consultant. List any indictments that have been issued against the project team members or principals of the firm.
4. Provide a Statement of Disclosure, which will allow GEFA to evaluate possible conflicts of interest. Respondents must provide, in their own format, a statement of all potential legal or otherwise significant conflicts of interest possibly created by the respondents or their proposed team being considered in the selection process or by the respondent's or their team's involvement in the project. Respondents should provide information as to the nature of relationship(s) with parties in such potential conflicts.
5. Provide name of insurance carrier(s), types and levels of coverage, and deductible amounts per claim.
6. List the submitting firm's annual average revenue for the past five years. Supply main banking references of the submitting firm.
7. Has the firm ever been removed from a contract or failed to complete a contract as assigned? Explain.

B. EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. Provide information pertaining to the principal personnel including but not limited to: Principal in Charge, Project Manager and all other key personnel. Please include resumes and professional registration information for personnel identified. Provide a high-level organization chart for the principal Consulting Team, and any known significant prospective sub consultants. Provide information on level of

commitment for proposed senior personnel and key members of team.

2. Provide experience of key resources on projects of the firm relevant to the Scope of Services herein, including professional qualifications and description of involvement/experience for proposed project staff. This should include the degree of apparent relevant competencies of the principal professional(s) and lead staff relative to the project and services required, and evidence of competence. **Provide information regarding firm/staff experience with varied LSL Water Program Administration methods, and other relevant water program consulting experience.** *(At this stage, firms are asked for information on lead staff only, but each firm may list qualifications and experience on more than one lead individual who are being proposed for services.)*
3. Provide information on the firm's experience and ability in delivering effective LSL Water Program Administration services such as generally described in the scope herein, and any related services for Clean Water, Wastewater or water related projects similar in complexity, size, scope, and function to the scope herein. Describe no more than 6 and no less than 3 programs or projects, in order of most relevant to least relevant, that demonstrate the firm's capabilities to provide services for GEFA. For each program or project, the following information should be provided:
 - a. Client entity name, project location and dates during which services were performed.
 - b. Clear description of overall project and services performed by your firm.
 - c. Software provided by your firm, and overall program, project budget estimate.
 - d. Current client contact information including contact names, email addresses, and telephone numbers.
4. Provide a statement on the firm's experience and qualifications in a complex consulting role for similar projects. Include any oversight of projects of extreme complexity, including experience in providing leadership in projects that are highly challenging. Include any certifications, industry ratings, and national or international achievement recognitions, etc., to attest to the level of experience and success. Describe innovations that the firm might have introduced or employed to increase the project's adherence to technical standards.

C. SUITABILITY

Provide any information that may serve to differentiate your firm from other firms in suitability for the project including but not limited to:

1. Furnish evidence of the firm's fit to the project and/or needs of GEFA, any special or unique qualifications for the project, or unique approaches to providing LSL Water Program Administration services.
2. Provide evidence of the firm's suitability for and understanding of the importance of delivering appropriate and accurate consulting software, coordination, documentation and reports similar to the incumbent project.
3. Supply current and projected workloads.
4. Provide a statement, regarding the areas of the Scope (herein) that your firm DOES NOT not and/or CANNOT perform.
5. Describe any special or enhanced capabilities offered by the firm that may be particularly suitable for this program administration scope (such as the ability of the firm to perform or gather a team to perform any special or enhanced capabilities necessary to provide ancillary services required to carry out the complete administrative scope of the project).
6. Describe ability to gather resources in vicinity to stakeholders, and/or any knowledge of the project areas which may uniquely benefit the firm and project.
7. Provide any non-discrimination and equal employment opportunities policies of the firm and evidence of efforts or success in W/MBE-DBE inclusion.
8. Describe the firm's history and methodologies of addressing public safety, environmental, or other

related concerns in its field.

9. Describe other services or relevant scopes or techniques offered by the firm which might be especially suitable for the project.

D. PAST PERFORMANCE

1. Provide at least three references for projects described in Section B-3, above, including references from (as applicable) Client Agencies, project managers, and related major stakeholders. Provide at least two references from a public entity with responsibilities to administer comprehensive federal and state water programs and provide information on system solutions utilized for the scope. Provide references which indicate level of adherence to project budget and schedule (original vs. final) and/or information on performance review or variance evaluation.

VI. Evaluation Criteria

A. Criteria for Evaluation of Statements of Qualifications

The Selection Committee will evaluate Statements of Qualifications using the following criteria:

- 10% Factor} **Stability and resources** of the submitting firm, including the firm's history, status, growth, overall resources of the firm, form of ownership, litigation history, financial information, and other evidence of stability.
- 40% Factor} Firm's relevant **experience and qualifications**, including the demonstrated ability of the firm in effective program services and system solutions in studies and surveys for projects comparable in complexity, size, and function, for customers similar in scope to customers of GEFA, and other similarly structured organizations. This includes relevant experience and qualifications of the principal professionals and lead staff and level of experience during all phases of similar scopes.
- 40% Factor} Firm's apparent **suitability** to provide services and system solutions for project including software systems, also including the firm's apparent fit to the project type and/or needs of GEFA, any special or unique qualifications for the project, suitability for innovative methods, current and projected workloads (available resources), proximity of office(s) and/or lead staff to project location and/or proven ability to gather resources in location of service, proposed quality control/quality assurance procedures, special or enhanced capabilities, firm's non-discrimination and equal employment opportunities policies in W/MBE-DBE inclusion, as well as the firm's record and methodology of addressing public safety and environmental concerns.
- 10% Factor} **Past performance** evidence of the submitting firm, including level of quality of the services and system solutions of the firm to previous customers, customer's statements of that quality, the firm's ability to meet established time requirements, the firm's response to project needs, the firm's control of quality and budget.

VII. Submittal Conditions

A. SUBMITTAL OF QUESTIONS AND REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION

Questions about any aspect of the RFQ, or the project, shall be submitted prior to the appropriate deadlines indicated in the Schedule of Events, and shall be submitted in writing to:

Richard Sawyer
GEFA
rsawyer@gefa.ga.gov

The deadlines for submission of questions relating to the RFQ are the times and dates shown in the (Schedule of Events- Section IV). From the issue date of this solicitation until a successful respondent is selected and the selection is announced, the Restriction of Communication shall be in effect. For violation of this provision, GEFA shall reserve the right to reject the submittal of the offending respondent. At any time prior to the submission date, GEFA may issue an RFQ addendum to further clarify any part of this RFQ, amend this RFQ or issue instructions or further information. Each such addendum will be posted and/or distributed to all respondents. In addition, GEFA may adjust any timelines related to the project referenced herein or otherwise.

B. SUBMITTAL OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS

An electronic original of the qualifications shall be prepared. One complete copy must be provided via email as a SINGLE “.pdf” file. Each submittal shall include a transmittal letter as a part of the file. Submittals must be able to be printable on standard (8½” x 11”) paper. The pages of the qualification submittals must be numbered. A table of contents must be included to identify each section as instructed in this RFQ. Responses are limited to 15 printable pages or less using a minimum of size 11 font. One page of the SOQ shall be devoted to an Organization Chart (requested in deliverable B-1). Additional information should not be added on this page. Each SOQ shall be prepared simply and economically, providing straightforward, concise delineation of respondent’s capabilities. Irrelevant displays and promotional materials are not desired. Emphasis must be on completeness, relevance, and clarity of content.

NOTE: All pages **shall be included** in the page limit **EXCEPT** for the front cover, cover (transmittal letter), table of contents, and required Exhibits. Submittals must be emailed with reference to **GEFA RFQ 928-WRD-22BIL-LEAD-PFAS-EC** and the words **“STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS”** clearly indicated on emailed message subject line. **Submittals received after the time and date set for receipt are subject to rejection. Emailed Submittals shall be sent to:**

Richard Sawyer
Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
Email: rsawyer@gefa.ga.gov

Statements of Qualifications submitted via facsimile will not be accepted. All SOQ submittals and other submittals are considered Sealed Proposals and upon receipt become the property of GEFA. Labeling information provided in submittals “proprietary” or “confidential”, or any other designation of restricted use will not be binding upon GEFA or its representatives and will not protect the information from public view. Subject to the provisions of the Open Records Act, the details of the proposal documents will remain confidential until final award. All expenses for preparing and submitting responses are the sole cost of the party submitting the response. GEFA is not obligated to any party to reimburse such expenses.

C. RFQ CONDITIONS

1. Respondents understand and agree that GEFA is not required to select an ultimately lowest priced fee proposal and has the right to reject any and all submittals or to cancel the RFQ process at any time without any liability to GEFA or any other person, and the parties are under no obligation to make an award relating

to this RFQ to any person or entity. In addition, GEFA reserves the right to evaluate only those Proposals determined to be fully responsive to the RFQ. All such decisions (including the selection of the Engineering Consultant) are ultimately to be made in the sole discretion of GEFA, for any reason or for no reason whatsoever, and GEFA is under no obligation to assign any reason for the rejection, non-review or non-acceptance of any SOQ. Under no circumstances shall this RFQ and component processes within be construed as a contractual offer.

2. Respondents understand and agree that GEFA may, in its sole discretion, judge whether any apparent conflicts of interest of respondents warrant rejection of the submittal(s) of the respondent, or other action; and that GEFA may, in its sole discretion, request fee proposals from, and subsequently enter into an agreement with, any entity selected in this process. Furthermore, respondents shall not hold GEFA, their customers, and/or any of their respective employees, representatives, agents, attorneys, advisors or consultants liable for any reason whatsoever related to this RFQ and respondents hereby waive all such claims.
3. Respondents may make no modification, correction or withdrawal of their submissions after the submission date. By submitting, each respondent represents that: (i) it has read and understands this RFQ, (ii) its submission complies with the requirements of this RFQ, (iii) respondent has the necessary corporate/firm authority to submit its SOQ
4. All information supplied in this RFQ is provided solely as a convenience to facilitate the selection process. GEFA does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any such information supplied. In addition, respondent shall not rely on any express or implied statements, warranties or representations made. Respondent agrees that GEFA and their employees, representatives, agents, advisors or consultants cannot be held liable for any such statements, warranties or representations or inaccuracies or incompleteness in any information provided.
5. Small and Minority Business Enterprise

It is the policy of the state of Georgia that small businesses, female-owned businesses and minority businesses have a fair and equal opportunity to participate in the state purchasing process. Therefore, GEFA encourages all small businesses, female-owned businesses and minority-owned businesses to compete for, win, and receive contracts for goods, services, and construction. This desire on the part of owner is not intended to restrict or limit competitive bidding or to increase the cost of the work. GEFA supports a healthy free market system that seeks to include responsible businesses and provides ample opportunity for business growth and development. The Georgia Department of Administrative Services maintains an office to assist small businesses, female-owned businesses and minority businesses in understanding the State procurement process. In addition to contacting GEFA, all businesses, female-owned businesses and minority businesses can also contact the Georgia Department of Administrative Services for assistance.

All Respondents should be aware that contractors and subcontractors who utilize qualified minority subcontractors may qualify for a Georgia state income tax credits for qualified payments made to minority subcontractors. See O.C.G.A. § 48-7-38.

6. Drug Free Workplace

GEFA, as policy, operates all facilities as a drug-free workplace, and requires that the labor force of the consultant be drug-free. The consultant hereby acknowledges this requirement and asserts that the organization of the consultant adheres to such policy and practice. The consultant acknowledges that it may be required to produce certificates affirming its compliance of these requirements of drug-free workplace for duration of agreement term, at execution, or at any time during the term of the agreement, pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 50-24-3.

7. Vendor Protests

A vendor who is aggrieved regarding a solicitation may communicate the grievance by letter to the selection facilitator of the solicitation with copy to the Executive Director of GEFA prior to the submittal deadline required by the solicitation. Any actual respondent who is aggrieved regarding the award of a contract may communicate the grievance by letter to the selection facilitator of the solicitation, with copy to the Executive Director of GEFA no later than 10 calendar days following the apparent award.

DRAFT

EXHIBIT I

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS CERTIFICATION FORM

I, _____, being duly sworn, state that I am _____ (title) of _____ (firm) and hereby duly certify that I have read and understand the information presented in the attached statement of qualifications and any enclosure and exhibits thereto.

I further certify that to the best of my knowledge the information given in response to the Request for Qualifications is full, complete and truthful.

I further certify that the submitting firm and any principal employee of the submitting firm has not, in the immediately preceding five (5) years, been convicted of any crime of moral turpitude or any felony offense, nor has had their professional license suspended, revoked or been subjected to disciplinary proceedings.

I further certify that the submitting firm has not, in the immediately preceding five (5) years, been suspended or debarred from contracting with any federal, state or local government agency, and further, that the submitting firm is not now under consideration for suspension or debarment from any such agency.

I further certify that the submitting firm has not in the immediately preceding five (5) years been defaulted in any federal, state or local government agency contract and further, that the submitting firm is not now under any notice of intent to default on any such contract.

I acknowledge, agree and authorize, and certify that the proposer acknowledges, agrees and authorizes, that the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority ("Authority") may, by means that either deems appropriate, determine the accuracy and truth of the information provided by the proposer and that the Authority may contact any individual or entity named in the Statement of Qualifications for the purpose of verifying the information supplied therein.

I acknowledge and agree that all of the information contained in the Statement of Qualifications is submitted for the express purpose of inducing the Authority to award a contract.

I certify we have not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for it, to solicit or secure this contract and that we have not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for us, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or the making of this contract.

I certify that any proposal we submit for this project shall be made without prior understanding, agreement, or connection with any corporation, firm, or person submitting or who will be submitting a separate proposal on the same project or for the same services, materials, labor, supplies, or equipment and is in all respects fair and without collusion or fraud. We understand collusive bidding is a violation of state and federal law and can result in fines, prison sentences, and civil damage awards. We agree to abide by all conditions of this solicitation. We certify that no person associated with our firm is a member of the Board of Governor's or officer or employee of the Authority or holds any statewide elective or appointed office. We further certify that no person who holds any state-wide elective or appointed office or who is a member of the Board of Governors or officer or employee of the Authority has been paid or promised by the firm any compensation in connection with this procurement by the Authority.

A material false statement or omission made in conjunction with this proposal is sufficient cause for suspension or debarment from further contracts, or denial of rescission of any contract entered into based upon this proposal thereby precluding the firm from doing business with, or performing work for, the State of Georgia. In addition, such false statement or omission may subject the person and entity making the proposal to criminal prosecution under the laws of the State of Georgia of the United States, including but not limited to O.C.G.A. §16-10-20, 18 U.S.C. §§1001 or 1341.

Sworn and subscribed before me

This _____ day of _____, 20____.

Signature

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: _____

[NOTARY SEAL]

EXHIBIT II

GEORGIA SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION COMPLIANCE ACT AFFIDAVIT

Respondent's Name: _____

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CONSULTANT AFFIDAVIT**

By executing this affidavit, the undersigned Consultant verifies its compliance with O.C.G.A. §13-10-91, stating affirmatively that the individual, firm, or corporation which is interested in contracting with the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority ("Authority") has registered with, is authorized to participate in, and is participating in the federal work authorization program commonly known as E-Verify,* in accordance with the applicable provisions and deadlines established in O.C.G.A. 13-10-91.

The undersigned Consultant further agrees that it will continue to use the federal work authorization program throughout the prospective contract period and, should it employ or contract with any subconsultant(s) in connection with the physical performance of services pursuant to this prospective contract with the Authority, Consultant will secure from such subconsultant(s) similar verification of compliance with O.C.G.A. § 13-10-91 on the Subconsultant Affidavit provided in Rule 300-10-01-.08 or a substantially similar form. Consultant further agrees to maintain records of such compliance and provide a copy of each such verification to the Authority at the time the subconsultant(s) is retained to perform such service.

EEV / E-Verify™ User Identification Number

Date of Authorization

BY: Authorized Officer or Agent
(Contractor Name)

Date

Title of Authorized Officer or Agent of Consultant

Printed Name of Authorized Officer or Agent

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN
BEFORE ME ON THIS THE

____ DAY OF _____, 20____

[NOTARY SEAL]

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: _____

*or any subsequent replacement operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security or any equivalent federal work authorization program operated by the United States Department of Homeland Security to verify information of newly hired employees, pursuant to the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), P.L. 99-603

Attachment 7 - 2022 DWSRF Affordability and Ranking Criteria

GEFA's affordability criteria uses data on median household income (MHI), unemployment rate, percentage not in labor force, poverty rate, percentage on Social Security, percentage on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), percentage with cash public assistance, percentage with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), age dependency ratio, and population trend from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 American Community Survey. The applicant's data is categorized in percentiles. GEFA will use the affordability criteria to score communities for principal forgiveness. **Please note that the affordability percentiles may change based on updated census data.**

1. Median Household Income (MHI)

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (4 points)	50th Percentile (3 points)	75th Percentile (2 points)	100th Percentile (1 point)
MHI	\$34,679	\$45,093	\$59,178	\$59,179 or higher

2. Unemployment Percent

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Unemployment Percent	1.5%	2.9%	4.2%	4.3% and higher

3. Percentage Not in Labor Force

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage Not in Labor Force	35.7%	43.5%	50.7%	50.8% and higher

4. Poverty Rate

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Poverty Rate	10.4%	18.8%	26.2%	26.3% and higher

5. Percentage on Social Security

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage on Social Security	28.6%	35.9%	43.4%	43.5% and higher

6. Percentage on SSI

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage on SSI	3.0%	6.1%	9.7%	9.8% and higher

7. Percentage with Cash Public Assistance

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage with Cash Public Assistance	0.0%	1.2%	2.4%	2.5% and higher

8. Percentage with SNAP

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Percentage with SNAP	9.2%	16.3%	23.5%	23.6% and higher

9. Age Dependency Ratio

State Percentiles	25th Percentile (1 point)	50th Percentile (2 points)	75th Percentile (3 points)	100th Percentile (4 points)
Age Dependency Ratio	57.2	67.3	78.3	78.4 and higher

10. Population Trend

The following categories will be used to determine scoring for change in population from 2011 to 2020.

- Positive growth or no growth (1 point)
- Between -0.01% to -1% (2 points)
- Between -1.01% and -2% (3 points)
- Greater than -2% (4 points)

Attachment 8 - Public Meeting Summary IUP



Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
IUP Meeting Minutes
Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Wednesday, October 11, 2023
10:00 a.m.

Call to Order

The meeting was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) boardroom located in Atlanta, Georgia.

GEFA staff present at the meeting were:

Amanda Carroll
Lisa Golphin
Jill Causse

Public participants present at the meeting were:

Atlanta Journal Constitution

Amanda Carroll welcomed everyone and introduced the staff in attendance. After discussing the purpose for the public meeting was to present and receive comments on the drafted 2024 Base and Supplemental Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds IUPs, the 2023 Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) IUP, and the 2023 DWSRF Emerging Contaminant IUP, she opened the floor for comments.

Comments from Speakers

TBD

**Attachment 9 - Loan Program Policies
January 2021**



GEORGIA ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE AUTHORITY

1. PURPOSE

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) provides affordable financing to local governments throughout Georgia to develop environmental infrastructure that protects public health, preserves natural resources, and promotes economic development. GEFA sustains this mission through effective, efficient, and prudent management of these public resources.

2. APPLICABILITY

Loan program policies govern the use of funds managed within the:

- Georgia Fund,
- Georgia Reservoir Fund,
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), and
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

3. SUB-PROGRAMS

Georgia Fund

- ***Emergency Loan Program*** – The GEFA executive director has the authority to approve emergency loans to assist communities with financing improvements that are necessary to eliminate actual or potential public health hazards. Emergency loans are ratified at the next scheduled board meeting. The applicant must determine and document the emergency nature of the project and apply O.C.G.A. Section 36-91-22(e), which outlines the local government actions needed to classify a project as an emergency. Relevant terms are addressed in these policies.

4. ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS

Type of Entity

- GEFA can provide financing to the following entities:
 - Local governments and instrumentalities of the state;
 - Municipal corporations;
 - County or local water, sewer, or sanitary districts;

- State or local authorities, boards, or political subdivisions created by the General Assembly or pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the state; and
- Nongovernmental entities with an approved land conservation project.

Minimum Recipient Qualifications

- **Qualified Local Government** – Municipalities and counties must be certified as Qualified Local Governments by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA).
- **Service Delivery Strategy** – Municipalities, counties, and authorities must be included in a DCA-verified Service Delivery Strategy. The project for which an applicant seeks financing must be consistent with the verified strategy.
- **State Audit Requirements** – Municipalities, counties, authorities, and nongovernmental entities must be in compliance with state audit requirements.
- **Metro Plan Compliance** – Municipalities, counties, and authorities located within the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District (MNGWPD) can receive GEFA financing if the director of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has certified that the applicant/recipient is in compliance or is making a good faith effort to comply with all MNGWPD plans and/or enforcement measures.
- **Updated Building Codes** – Municipalities and counties must adopt and enforce O.C.G.A. Section 8-2-3 relating to the installation of high-efficiency plumbing fixtures.
- **Current Loan Agreements** – A current GEFA borrower can receive additional GEFA financing only if the borrower is in compliance with the existing credit documents, e.g., loan agreement and promissory note.
- **Nongovernmental Entities** – Nongovernmental entities must be a nonprofit organization with a primary purpose of permanently protecting or conserving land and natural resources, as evidenced by their organizational documents.

5. ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

GEFA's loan programs provide financing for a broad range of water, wastewater, sewer, stormwater, nonpoint source pollution prevention, land conservation, and solid waste projects. Specific project eligibility varies by program. The types of projects eligible for financing in each program and the minimum project requirements are listed below.

- **Georgia Fund** – May finance projects consistent with O.C.G.A. Section 50-23-4 to:
 - Supply, distribute, and treat water
 - Collect, treat, or dispose of sewage or solid waste
- **Georgia Reservoir Fund** – May finance projects consistent with O.C.G.A. Section 50-23-28 to:
 - Expand the capacity of existing reservoirs or other sources for water supply
 - Establish new reservoirs or other sources for water supply
- **CWSRF** – May finance projects consistent with the federal Clean Water Act to:
 - Construct municipal wastewater facilities
 - Control nonpoint source pollution, including projects that permanently protect conservation land

- **DWSRF** – May finance projects consistent with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to:
 - Install or upgrade facilities to improve drinking water quality or pressure, protect water sources, and provide storage create or consolidate water systems

Minimum Project Eligibility Requirements Under the Federal State Revolving Fund Programs

In addition to meeting the other applicable eligibility requirements outlined in these policies, projects receiving funding through the CWSRF or DWSRF must comply with applicable federal statutes, rules, and regulations. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Each project must be included in an Intended Use Plan submitted by GEFA to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- Each project must successfully complete the State Environmental Review Process, which is administered by EPD, and receive a Notice of No Significant Impact or Categorical Exclusion.
- Each recipient must certify compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by completing EPA Form 4700-4.
- Each DWSRF project and CWSRF treatment works project must comply with applicable federal procurement and labor rules, including Disadvantaged Business Enterprise utilization, Equal Employment Opportunity, the Davis Bacon Act, and requirements that may arise in future federal law or future federal assistance agreements.
- Each DWSRF project and CWSRF treatment works project must incorporate iron and steel products produced in the U.S. (“American Iron and Steel Requirement”).
- Each CWSRF treatment works project must certify that a Fiscal Sustainability Plan has been developed and is being implemented for the project or certify that a Fiscal Sustainability Plan will be developed and implemented for the project.

6. ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Recipients of GEFA financing may use GEFA funds for the following activities related to an eligible project:

- Feasibility analysis
- Project design
- Construction, grading, site preparation, dredging, etc.
- Land and easement acquisition needed for project implementation
- Stream or wetland mitigation
- Administrative and/or legal services
- System purchase

Engineering, Legal, and Administrative Costs – GEFA funds may be utilized for engineering, design, administrative costs, facilities planning, and land acquisition provided that these costs are necessary for the completion of the project defined by the scope of work and identified in the budget of the approved loan agreement. Such eligible costs incurred prior to the execution of a loan agreement are eligible for reimbursement with a GEFA loan. GEFA also offers engineering-only loans for these preliminary soft costs needed to facilitate the construction of an eligible project. GEFA will review and apply a standard to all project budgets.

Purchase of Existing Systems – An application that proposes to purchase an existing water and/or wastewater system must be accompanied by a certification of the value of the system by a registered professional engineer. GEFA will require other information as needed to document the content and costs of the purchase.

GEFA's loan agreement provides additional information about activities for which a borrower may or may not use GEFA funds.

7. PROGRAM MAXIMUMS

Loans available from GEFA are subject to the following maximums.

Georgia Fund

- The maximum loan amount is \$3,000,000 per borrower per year.
- The maximum loan amount for emergency loans is \$500,000 per project.
- The standard amortization period is 20 years or the useful life of the project.

Georgia Reservoir Fund

- The maximum loan amount will be determined based on availability of funds.
- The length of the amortization period shall be determined on a case-by-case basis consistent with O.C.G.A. Section 50-23-28.
- The maximum amortization period is 40 years.

CWSRF

- The maximum loan amount is \$25,000,000 per borrower per year.
- The maximum loan amount for engineering loans is \$2,000,000 per project.
- The maximum amortization period is 30 years not to exceed the useful life of the project.

DWSRF

- The maximum loan amount is \$25,000,000 per borrower per year.
- The maximum loan amount for engineering loans is \$2,000,000 per project.
- The maximum amortization period is 40 years for communities designated as “disadvantaged” based on GEFA’s affordability criteria not to exceed the useful life of the project.

8. INTEREST RATES

GEFA indexes its interest rates to the true interest cost (to the nearest hundredth of one percent) received by the state on its 20-year, competitively-bid, general obligation bond issue. This is GEFA’s benchmark rate; however, the interest rate adjustments described below may apply.

Federal Loans – For CWSRF and DWSRF loans, GEFA will charge an interest rate that is 50 basis points (0.50 percent) below GEFA’s benchmark rate.

Interest Rate Concessions – GEFA provides the following interest rate concessions for eligible borrowers or eligible projects under the specified funding programs. Interest rate concessions shall not be used in combination.

- **WaterFirst** – Communities that receive the WaterFirst designation may receive an interest rate 100 basis points (1 percent) below the prevailing interest rate for the program through which it is to be funded.
- **PlanFirst** – Communities designated as a PlanFirst Community may receive an interest rate 50 basis points (0.50 percent) below the prevailing interest rate for the program through which it is to be funded.
- **Conservation** – Communities seeking financing for eligible energy, land, or water conservation projects may receive an interest rate 100 basis points (1 percent) below the prevailing interest rate for the program through which it is to be funded as outlined in GEFA's Water Conservation Financing guidance.
- **Special Loan Terms** – The GEFA board may approve loans with different interest rates or specialized terms, e.g., principal forgiveness, consistent with specific program objectives and/or relevant federal requirements.

9. FEES

GEFA may assess certain fees to loan recipients.

Origination Fee – GEFA will charge an origination fee of 1 percent pursuant to the loan agreement.

Loan Servicing Fees – Under specific circumstances, GEFA may charge the following loan servicing fees:

- GEFA may assess a non-sufficient funds fee (NSF) if the borrower fails to have sufficient funds in its designated bank account at the time the payment is drafted. The payment due may be for any type of payment due under the credit documents including origination fees, construction interest, monthly principal and interest payments, or any other fee. GEFA will charge the NSF fee to the borrower for each loan for which payment is due and not available.
- GEFA may assess a late fee for any payment not received by the 15th of the month in which the payment is due. This will be in addition to any NSF fees assessed in the same month.
- GEFA may assess a monthly Loan Continuation Fee in the event the borrower fails to draw funds within six months (180 days) of loan agreement execution.

For details about the fees, refer to the Loan Servicing Fee Schedule available at gefa.georgia.gov/loan-documents.

10. LOAN SECURITY

GEFA requires a revenue and full-faith-and-credit pledge of each borrower and any other special loan condition GEFA may deem necessary, e.g., debt service reserve, etc.

For borrowers, such as authorities, that lack taxation powers or lack adequate taxation capacity to provide a full-faith-and-credit pledge equal to the value of the loan, the following requirements will need to be fulfilled prior to execution of loan:

- A debt service coverage ratio of 1.25x or greater
- A debt service coverage ratio of less than 1.25x, but equal to or greater than 1.05x – a reserve in the amount of one year's debt service on the proposed debt must be deposited into a separate bank account that names GEFA as the beneficiary, prohibits the borrower from withdrawing funds without GEFA's written consent, and requires the bank to submit quarterly statements of activity and account balance information directly to GEFA.

- A debt service coverage ratio of less than 1.05x – Additional security through an agreement with the authority's local government that is willing and able to provide a full-faith-and-credit pledge to back the loan.
- For nongovernmental entity borrowers, a deed to secure debt will be required.

11. RELEASE OF GEFA FUNDS DURING CONSTRUCTION

GEFA monitors construction and endorses GEFA payments in accordance with the loan agreement. To allow monitoring, the loan or grant recipient must notify GEFA prior to commencing construction.

12. LOAN EXECUTION DEADLINE

If the loan agreement is not fully executed within six months (180 days) from the date of board approval, GEFA reserves the right to terminate its commitment.

13. LOAN RESTRUCTURING

Loan restructuring is the changing of terms and/or conditions of an existing loan. The range of restructuring options may include adjusting the interest rate of a loan, changing the amortization period of a loan, or changing the repayment schedule to adjust allocation between interest and principal. GEFA will consider a borrower's request to restructure its existing GEFA loan(s) on a case-by-case basis if the borrower is experiencing financial hardship. In evaluating a restructuring request, GEFA will consider at a minimum the following indicators of financial hardship:

- The borrower's debt service coverage ratio history.
- The type and extent of efforts undertaken by the borrower to improve its financial condition, including enhancing revenues from rate increases or raising of ad valorem taxes and/or reducing costs.
- Emergency or exigent circumstances beyond the control of the borrower that impose a long-term and severe financial hardship.

Under no circumstances will loan principal be forgiven.

14. LOAN REFINANCING

Loan refinancing uses loan funds to pay off an existing debt obligation, thereby satisfying the terms of the existing debt agreement and cancelling the existing obligation. GEFA will consider requests to refinance existing GEFA debt on a case-by-case basis if one of the following conditions is met:

- The community is requesting a loan from GEFA to finance an eligible, time-sensitive, and critical project, but needs to consolidate existing GEFA debt into the new loan to afford the new project.
- The community has an engineering loan it would like to refinance with the proceeds of a construction loan from GEFA, thereby combining the engineering loan and the construction loan into one loan.

15. CREDIT ANALYSIS

GEFA requires a minimum debt service coverage of 1.05 times in the first year of repayment and each subsequent year of the outstanding GEFA debt.